GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3899
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2015
BPL Survey
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Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons identified as living Below Poverty Line (BPL) State and category-wise;

(b) the year in which the latest survey in regard to BPL population was conducted in the country and the nature of short comings found therein along with the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the said survey was supposed to be conducted again after a certain period of time;

(d) if so, the time by which the said survey is likely to be conducted;

(e) whether any proposal regarding conducting BPL survey is under consideration of the Government; and

(f) if so, the time by which it is likely to be cleared and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS [GENERAL (Dr.) V.K. SINGH (Retd.)]

(a) to (f): As per the last BPL Census conducted in 2002, a statement showing rural BPL families identified by the States/UTs is given at the Annexure.

There were disputes on inclusion and exclusion of families in BPL list 2002. States reported that many poor households could not be captured as BPL and many non- BPL households got enumerated as BPL.

Originally, the States were asked to identify the number of BPL families in such a manner that it should be equal to the Poverty Estimates of 1999-2000 of the Planning Commission. However, subsequently the States were given the option of deciding the total number of BPL households equal to the Poverty Estimates of 1999-2000 or the Adjusted Share computed by the Planning Commission, whichever is higher. In addition, the States were also given the flexibility of another 10% to account for the transient poor. The State Governments were given flexibility to decide the cut off score for determining the number of BPL families in the different parts of rural areas by taking into account the prevailing incidence of poverty in a particular area and other local circumstances.

After the BPL Census in 2002, the Government decided to conduct the Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC), 2011. Socio Economic and Caste Census consists of Census in Rural areas for identification of BPL households, Census in Urban areas in connection with identification of BPL households in urban areas and Caste Census throughout the country. Government launched a Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011 (SECC 2011) to generate information on a large number of social and economic indicators/parameters for ranking of households across the country, which may be used to determine eligibility and entitlements for different Central Government Schemes.

The enumeration of the SECC 2011 has been completed in all the districts. The provisional Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) data for Rural India was released on 3rd July, 2015.